

9 January 1976

NOTE FOR: SC/DCI

SUBJECT: White House Comments on the SSC Bill on a Senate
Intelligence Committee


Mitch:

1. Their comments make no reference to the fact that service as a Senator on the committee is not being taken into account on other committee assignments. This is subject to the objection that if a Senator is to take on service in this committee in addition to all existing committee assignments, how much attention can he really give this important subject?

2. There is no reference to the requirements for secrecy agreements of committee staff. This point is sufficiently important as to warrant providing for it in the charter of the committee, be it legislation or by resolution.

3. There is no comment relating to the Comptroller General having access to any books, accounts, records, and all the papers or things within the possession of the intelligence agency. This again is unacceptable on Constitutional grounds. Since the time of George Washington there has been recognition that all intelligence accounts may not be reviewed by the Congress or its representatives.

4. On page 8, option (4), I thoroughly disagree with the White House approach to this. There should be no written acknowledgement by the Executive branch that the Congress has the right to declassify. This subject is left better unstated either way, and we deal with it at the time it becomes an issue.


JOHN S. WARNER
General Counsel

STATINTL